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News Release ~ Communiqué

Signing of Long-Term Agreement to Restore and Stabilize Fortifications de Québec near the Nouvelles Casernes

QUEBEC CITY, March 30, 1995 The Honourable Michel Dupuy, Minister of Canadian Heritage, and Mr. Bertrand Lachance, Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the Corporation de l'Hôtel-Dieu, today signed a long-term agreement allowing the Federal Government to begin stabilization and restoration work on the Fortifications de Québec bordering the Nouvelles Casernes. This land is part of the historic district of Quebec City classified by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

"The Fortifications de Québec constitute an outstanding example of the historical and cultural heritage of this country," said Mr. Dupuy. "The financial involvement of the Canadian government in the project illustrates its willingness to protect cultural resources and its commitment to the preservation of this superb defence work."

The long-term agreement covers a period of 42 years. The Department of Canadian Heritage will be responsible for the tenaille along the Nouvelles Casernes and the Coteau-de-la-Potasse bastion. An amount of \$1,250,000 will be paid to the Corporation de l'Hôtel-Dieu as stipulated by the agreement. In addition, a series of major stabilization and restoration projects as well as archeological digs will complete this important segment of the Fortifications.

The old military rampart walk on the wall will also be restored. This will extend the now nearly complete footpath for tourists that runs along the fortifications encircling the Vieux Québec. In terms of tourism, the fortifications are an exceptional attraction; in terms of heritage protection, this action was urgently needed.

This initiative is an example of how this government is prioritizing its spending so that it can better serve Canadians by making efficient use of their tax dollars.

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